

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 01473 301625Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W  
-----311333Z 056390 /46

R 301531Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4586  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1473

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, JM  
SUBJECT: PEARNEL CHARLES ACQUITTED

1. SENATOR PEARNEL CHARLES, DEPUTY LEADER OF OPPOSITION JLP, HELD IN DETENTION SINCE THE IMPOSITION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN JUNE LAST YEAR, WAS ACQUITTED ON MAR 29 OF CHARGES OF CONSPIRING WITH "PERSONS UNKNOWN" TO COMMIT MURDER. THE CASE AGAINST THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) SENATOR FELL APART WHEN THE PROSECUTION'S KEY WITNESS DENIED HAVING MADE THE ACCUSATIONS ON WHICH THE CASE WAS BASED.

2. CHARLES' ACQUITTAL OF THE CONSPIRACY CHARGE DOES NOT MEAN AN END TO HIS DETENTION UNDER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, A QUITE SEPARATE MATTER. THE REASONS FOR HIS DETENTION HAVE NEVER BEEN DISCLOSED, AND A SENIOR JLP FIGURE HAS TOLD US THAT CHARLES HAS NEVER HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE BASIS FOR HIS DETENTION WITH ANY POLICE OR OTHER SECURITY OFFICIAL. WE EXPECT THAT THE JLP WILL NOW DEMAND THAT CHARLES BE RELEASED SINCE (A) HE HAS BEEN ACQUITTED OF THE CRIMINAL CHARGE AND (B) NO REASON FOR HIS CONTINUED DETENTION HAS BEEN ADDUCED. SINCE CHARLES HAS A REPUTATION--  
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WELL-DESERVED WE UNDERSTAND-- FOR POLITICAL THUGGERY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL DOUBTLESS BE RELUCTANT TO ORDER HIS RELEASE. HOWEVER, KEEPING CHARLES IN DETENTION IN THE AFTER-MATH OF THE ACQUITTAL MAY RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY PREFER TO AVOID. THE JLP WILL TRY TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS RELUCTANCE.  
GERARD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTION, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS, TRIALS, COURT DECISIONS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977KINGST01473  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PEARNEL CHARLES ACQUITTED  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, JM, (CHARLES, PEARNEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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